

# Heydler and Tener Offer Remedy for Batting Slump---World's Leading Quarter Milers in Suburban "440"

## BASEBALL'S NEED IS MORE BATTING

Western Statistician Finds Starting Slump in Runs and Base Hits.

### HEYDLER OFFERS REMEDY

By SHORTSTOP.

If the owners of ball clubs and their striking athletes used a little more sense and settled their dispute with a little of "give and take" all hands might turn to a more important issue and try to find some means of halting the batting averages. The 300 hitter is becoming more scarce each year, and some methods should be devised to prevent this creature from becoming extinct.

The modern day pitcher appears to have too much of an advantage on the batter. Whether the pitching craft is developing faster than the batting or whether the game in the last ten years has produced a higher class of batters than the boys that swing the mace, the batting averages are getting slimmer each year.

A table of statistics compiled by Paul Purman, a Western statistician, tells that the batting average of the major league clubs has fallen off. Mr. Purman has taken a general average of the club batting averages of the eleven clubs for the last ten years, and finds that from 1911 to 1916 there was a batting decrease of 20 percentage points.

The following table shows the combined batting averages for the last six years:

Year	AB	R	H	SH	PC
1911	11,500	8,300	20,200	2,500	247
1912	11,500	8,300	20,200	2,500	247
1913	11,500	8,300	20,200	2,500	247
1914	11,500	8,300	20,200	2,500	247
1915	11,500	8,300	20,200	2,500	247
1916	11,500	8,300	20,200	2,500	247

A gradual slump.

These figures in themselves also tell the story of the Federal League war. There was a general slump in batting after the Feds started to offer a haven for disgruntled players is shown by the slump in batting from 241 to 236 in the first six years of the league's existence. It dropped another point in 1915, and last season instead of getting better slumped still another point, to 234.

How this batting slump has left its mark on the scoring is shown in the number of runs scored. In 1911 the sixteen major league teams scored 2,554 runs. The following year they scored more runs than that. The following year they scored more runs than that. The following year they scored more runs than that.

Batting, after all, is the big punch in baseball. Some of the magnates point out with pride that has never been necessary to amend the rules for the last many years, and they would consider it almost sacrilegious to change any of the rules.

However, there would be no harm in trying anything for a season. Percy Houghton, one of the advocates of new rules to put more batting and base running into the game, has suggested that the rules be changed several years in succession, and the result of these experiments was a far better and more enjoyable game than the old "mass formation" game ever was.

Would Eliminate the Spiball.

President Tener of the National League believes the elimination of the spiball will bring about the desired result. He said recently he did not think the joint rules committee would go any further than that. However, it is doubtful if the elimination of the spiball will be sufficient tonic for the batting figures.

The emery ball, one of the most deceptive deliveries of the last few years, has been ruled out of baseball for the last two years, and batting has gone down instead of up.

Two suggestions by local baseball men would help a lot, and it would be well if one or both were given a year's trial. Secretary Heydler of the National League, whose knowledge and understanding of baseball is second to none, would give a batter his base on three balls instead of four. In recommending such a change Heydler also presents the argument that in his opinion it would not greatly increase the number of bases on balls, and not only would it help batting but base running also.

With only three balls required to send a batter to first Heydler believes it would tend to make the pitcher more careful in his service and would do away almost entirely with the custom of pitching one or two waste balls when the catcher believes a fast man is about to steal.

Another good suggestion, made by Secretary Foster of the Giants, would call only one foul strike on a batsman. It often has been argued that the rule makers took too drastic a step when they made two foul hits go as strikes. One foul strike would about strike the proper balance.

Griffith's Experiment.

An interesting experiment will be tried by Clark Griffith of the Washington Senators next spring. Griffith intends using the player he regarded as his leading 1916 outfield prospect in the pitcher's box, while one of his most promising pitchers of a year ago will start the season in charge of a regular patrol in the outfield. The players switched around will be Jamieson and Sam Rice.

Four years ago Jamieson and Wallie Schang were considered the star battery of the Buffalo Internationals. In 1912 Jamieson won 45 cents of his salary with a club which did not break even. Jamieson also was a great asset to his club as a pinch hitter. The Buffalo club being unable to pay him, he was loaned to the Federal League war. Jamieson was moved into the outfield to give the club more batting strength, and in 1915 he was one of the star batters of the league, batting well above .300. He joined Washington late that season and did nicely.

Jamieson started the season as an outfield regular, but like Joe Judge, another great smiter in Buffalo in 1915, he found the America League pitchers much tougher. Jamieson finished the season on the bench, and there was much surprise when Griffith sent him in to pitch a few innings of a game played on the Polo Grounds last fall. Jamieson is a left hander.

In 1915 Sam Rice was one of the leading pitchers in the Virginia League, and Griffith used him in a few games this fall. Early last season he appeared in the box scores mostly as a pinch hitter, and toward the end of the season he played regularly in the outfield. He hit .339 in fifty-eight games.

BROOKLYN COLLEGE MEET.

Among the prominent entries that have come in lately for the Brooklyn College games to be held at the Fourth Regiment Armory on Saturday evening, February 17, is that of Kherman Landers of the University of Pennsylvania. Landers is the former Western schoolboy star, who is a versatile athlete. Besides being the national pole vault champion, Landers is a fine sprinter, hurdler, high jumper, broad jumper and javelin thrower. At the Brooklyn College games Landers will compete in the 100 yard dash, the 100 yard dash and the 50 yard high hurdles.

## When Is a Boxer Knocked Out in a Ring Contest?

Misconception of Phrase Gives Rise to Unjust Prejudice—Few Instances of Unconsciousness Following K. O. Blows.

### By CROSS COUNTER.

Misinterpretation of ring phraseology is responsible in a large measure for the popular impression as to alleged brutality in the roped square.

The word "knockout" as applied to the ending of many bouts has been the cause of much undeserved criticism of the glove game, those unfamiliar with the subject being convinced that a boxer must be better to insensibility in order to be claimed as a victim of knockout.

A misleading pronouncement as to what constitutes a knockout was recently put forth as follows:

"Men have been rendered temporarily hors de combat and have taken the count, but they were not knocked out in the full sense of the word."

The sole basis for such a statement, which Bob Fitzsimmons delivered to Jim Corbett at Carson City, will knock the wind out of a man and render him so weak that he cannot stand up, but he will be conscious and hear every count of the referee.

A blow on the neck may close the windpipe and render a boxer unable to breathe, while a blow to the heart is weakening to the same extent.

"But the real knockout blow that sends a boxer to unconsciousness must be either side of the jaw near the point of the chin, where a branch of the inferior maxillary nerve crosses the jaw bone. That is the scientific knockout punch."

Exception Is the Rule.

The above is a popular misconception of the manner in which a pugilist is stopped or knocked out. Its fatal defect is the assertion that a boxer must be unconscious in order to be properly knocked out.

As a matter of fact, unconsciousness is the exception, and not the rule, in boxing. In ninety-nine cases out of one hundred the letters "K. O." after a boxer's name merely indicate that he was unable to continue the fight.

There have been several instances in which a boxer has been knocked out and has recovered. In such cases the referee has stopped the fight in order to prevent further damage to the boxer.

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## MEREDITH TWICE TO RACE DISMONT

Two "47 2-5" Quarter Milers Will Clash in K. of St. Anthony and N. Y. A. C. Meets.

### SMITHSON'S MARK STANDS

By SPRINTER.

Ted Meredith and Binga Diamond, the only two 47 2-5 second quarter milers in captivity, with the exception of dear old Maxey Long, who long since hung his athletic toes in the closet, will clash here early next month in their first meeting since the two great double furlongers hung up the coveted "47 2-5."

The former son of Pennsylvania and the colored scion of the University of Chicago not only will meet in one race but they probably will measure strides in two. Each of them has entered the Suburban Quarter, the classic race which will be run on the 13th of February at the annual indoor carnival of the New York A. C. in the Twenty-second Regiment Armory on February 12.

Meredith has entered the Buermeyer Special, the scratch 500 yard race, which will give him a chance to equal the mark of the New York A. C. in the Twenty-second Regiment Armory on February 12.

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## MOORE TO DEFEND TITLE THIS WEEK

McCourt Gets Chance at Three Cushion Laurels Next Wednesday.

### CHAMPION IS FAVORITE

Charles A. McCourt of Cleveland and George W. Moore of New York will engage in a struggle for the championship of the world at three cushion carom billiards at Doyle's next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. They will play the regulation championship quota of 150 points, in three sessions of 50 points each. Stakes of \$500, a purse of \$300 added by Doyle and the diamond challenge trophy, donated by the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company, will depend on the result. The winner will have to defend the trophy against Horace B. Lean of Chicago between March 5 and 18.

Moore is the holder of the championship trophy, while McCourt is the champion of the Interstate Three Cushion League. Their cue work presents a striking contrast. While Moore is a careful, smooth and accurate executant and an ideal tactician, McCourt is a bold, spectacular and dangerous opponent, a great shot maker who affects scoring first and safety last.

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## Questions & Answers

By TOM MAC NULTY

### SKATERS PREPARE FOR ANNUAL RACES

Many New York Performers to Take Part in Ice Carnivals.

SKATERS OF NEW YORK and vicinity are sharpening their steel runners for the speed campaign, which opens with the Saranac Lake ice carnival January 30 and closes two weeks later with the annual events at Newburgh. Practically every prominent performer in the local district is prepared to make a dash for titles.

Although entries do not close until February 6 for the annual Lincoln's Birthday races at Newburgh, many New York skaters already have signified their intention of taking part. Among the signed are Donald M. Baker, Walter Kuehne, half mile champion; William A. Taylor, Richard W. Dierker, H. Merne, Bjork, the French champion; Irving Reiner, H. P. Carter, E. Laviolette, G. H. Lahrman, E. M. Avery, A. J. Laviolette, George G. Hardy, D. H. Parker and Thomas.

Practically every man mentioned above will be on hand at Saranac, and many of them will compete in the annual races held by the New York Athletic Club, which this season will be at Nottick Rink next Thursday. With the skaters who annually come East for these events ice skating should attain a prominence it has not held in some time.

Most of the patronage at the Saranac Lake carnival is expected from New York. Already the Artists Club, an organization holding forth at St. Nicholas Rink, has arranged to attend the Saranac events. Model skaters, one of the leaders of the organization, went to Saranac recently and secured quarters for the crowd. The three day festival will not only include races on skates, but there will be coasting, sliding, curling, hockey, tobogganing and a final parade.